

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to have the leaves, flowers, and fruit; and, in the case of bulbous plants, the bulbs, also. When they are sent from a distance it is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When the dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed between pieces of stiff pasteboard. Packages weighing less than four pounds can be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per ounce. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where collected, the date, and any other particulars of the plant, whether reputed poisonous, pestiferous, medicinal, or useful.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

BOTANICAL DIVISION,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17, 1889.

Dear Dr. Watson:

I want to thank you very much for your kindness in making the corrections in Dr. Gray's Ranunculi. What bothered me was the identity in habit between R. Arizonicus and R. affinis var. validus. In our specimens the length of style seemed quite variable in R. Arizonicus; and besides, Hooker's figure of R. cardiophyllus, in Fl. Bor.-Amer., has a long style. There seems a possibility that the two may grade together. Some of the San Francisco Mt. specimens appear to demand a place in R. affinis.

I shall not be able to get at them just now, and unless I find myself very much puzzled I shall not need the specimens.

Yours very sincerely,

Fred. V. Coville,

Asst. Botanist.